

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9624

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HA, US

SUBJECT: HAITIAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS

REF: STATE 86289

1. AS CUSTOMARY REGARDING US FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS IT BELIEVES DO NOT AFFECT HAITIAN INTERESTS DIRECTLY, GOH HAS REACTED TO THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 10 ADDRESS TO CONGRESS WITH VIRTUAL SILENCE. MEDIA GAVE FULL PLAY TO ADDRESS, BASED ON AFP WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS AND USIS-SUPPLIED MATERIALS, BUT SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEDIA COMMENTARIES OR OTHER INDICATIONS THAT EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR HAITIANS VIEWED IT AS MATTER OF CONCERN TO THEMSELVES TO TO USG-GOH RELATIONS. HOWEVER, HAITIANS ARE INTERESTED IN TRADE AND AID MATTERS, AND THERE HAVE BEEN COMMENTARIES EXPRESSING PLEASURE AT USG EFFORT TO MAKE OPEC MEMBERS ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA ELIGIBLE FOR GSP UNDER TRADE ACT.

2. DESPITE A LONG AFP FEATURE ARTICLE REPRINTED PROMINENTLY IN LOCAL PRESS QUESTIONING CONTINUED USG ABILITY TO EXERCISE WORLD LEADERSHIP, LOCAL HO-HUM REACTION CONFIRMED THAT MOST HAITIANS AGREE THAT FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE US LEADERSHIP ROLE IN CARIBBEAN WILL REMAIN A FACT OF POLITICAL LIFE IN HAITI. HAITIANS THUS CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH DIRECTION BUT NOT FACT OF US LEADERSHIP. MOREOVER, GOH HAS NO SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH USG; GOH AIMS
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ARE TO OBTAIN SOME USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND GREATER ECONOMIC

ASSISTANCE PLEDGES; AND CRITICISM OF US HELP DERIVED FROM ASIAN OR EVEN MIDDLE EAST CONTEXTS APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE RELEVANCE TO HAITI.

3. WE THUS TENTATIVELY CONCLUDE THAT GOH CONTINUES TO HOLD USG ADMINISTRATION IN HIGH REGARD, ALBEIT BOTH RECENT WORLD EVENTS AND THE GOH'S OWN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN USG ASSISTANCE HAVE CAUSED IT TO HAVE A GREATER APPRECIATION OF CONGRESSIONAL ROLE IN US FOREIGN POLICY. GOH CONTINUES TO CONSIDER ITSELF A UNIQUE AND UNJUSTLY SPURNED CARIBBEAN "ALLY" OF THE US WHICH DEMONSTRATED ITS LOYALTY ONCE AGAIN BY DECLINING TO JOIN WITH LA NEIGHBORS IN SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH THE US OVER THE NEW TRADE ACT.
ISHAM

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